

REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Claims 1-18 have been amended to delete the multiple dependencies and the reference numerals, and to replace the words "characterised in that" with the word "wherein". These changes have been made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as amended on November 7, 2000. Marked-up versions of Claims 1-18 indicating the changes accompany this Preliminary Amendment.

It is requested that the application be examined on the basis of the substitute specification and the claims as amended.

Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated March 4, 2002

Marked-up Claims 1-18

1. (Amended) A method of producing a laminated packaging material [(10)] comprising a core layer [(16)] of paper or paperboard and a barrier layer [(14)] applied on one side of the core layer, [characterised in that] wherein a liquid barrier composition including a dispersion or solution of a polymer is applied as a barrier layer [(14)] on at least one side of a carrier layer [(11)] and is dried during heating for driving off liquid at a first drying temperature in a first step, and that the carrier layer [(11)] with the applied, dried barrier layer [(14)] is combined and permanently united with one side of the core layer [(16)] in a second step, whereafter the dried barrier layer [(14)] is cured by heating to above a second temperature being higher than the first temperature, in a third step.

2. (Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the carrier layer [(11)] bearing at least one dried barrier layer [(14)] is combined and united with the core layer [(16)] by extrusion of a layer of thermoplastics [(19)] therebetween.

3. (Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 [or 2], [characterised in that] wherein said barrier layer [(14)] is applied on the carrier layer by means of liquid film coating with said liquid barrier composition.

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4. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said liquid barrier composition applied as a barrier layer [(14)] includes a polymer with functional hydroxy 1 groups.

5. (Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 4, [characterised in that] wherein said polymer with functional hydroxyl groups is selected from among polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene vinyl alcohol, starch, starch derivatives, carboxyl methyl cellulose and other cellulose derivatives, or a mixture of two or more thereof.

6. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 5] Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said liquid barrier composition applied as a barrier layer [(14)] is dried at a web surface temperature of approx. 80-160'C.

7. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 6] Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said liquid barrier composition applied as barrier layer [(14)] also includes a polymer with functional carboxylic acid groups.

8. (Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 7, [characterised in that] wherein said polymer with functional carboxylic acid groups is selected from among ethylene acrylic acid copolymer and ethylene metacrylic acid copolymer or mixtures thereof.

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9. (Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 8, [characterised in that] wherein said barrier layer [(14)] substantially consists of a mixture of polyvinyl alcohol and ethylene acrylic acid copolymer.

10. (Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 8, [characterised in that] wherein said barrier layer [(14)] substantially consists of a mixture of polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene acrylic acid copolymer and an inorganic laminar compound.

11. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any of Claims 7 to 10] Claim 7, [characterised in that] wherein the dried barrier layer [(14)] is cured at a web surface temperature of up to 200°C, preferably approx. 170-190°C.

12. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 11] Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said barrier layer [(14)] is applied on the carrier layer [(11)] in an amount of approx. 1-10 g/m², based on dry coating weight.

13. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 12] Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said carrier layer [(11)] consists of thin paper optionally coated with a layer of plastics or of a plastics film.

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Marked-up Claims 1-18

14. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 13] Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said carrier layer [(11)] consists of paper with a grammage of approx. 5-35 g/m².

15. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 14] Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein outer layers [(21, 22)] of thermoplastics, preferably polyethylene, are applied on the barrier layer [(14)] and the core layer [(16)] by means of extrusion.

16. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 15] Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the layer [(19)] of plastic applied between the core layer [(16)] and the carrier layer [(11)] includes a substance functioning as light barrier.

17. (Amended) A laminated packaging material [(10)], [characterised in that] wherein it is produced by the method as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 16] Claim 1.

18. (Amended) A packaging container [(24)], [characterised in that] wherein it is produced by fold formation of a sheet or web-shaped laminated packaging material [(10)] as claimed in Claim 17.